



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item

Agenda Item No.

10

City Manager Approval

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Bernie Schroeder, Director of Public Works
By: Carie Huff, Associate Civil Engineer
Date: January 24, 2011
Subject: Department of Public Works – Response to Public Comment Regarding Traffic Signals and Streetlights

The Issue

Informational Item Only

Conclusion and Recommendation

No action to be taken

Background

There was a question raised by the public regarding the City's streetlights and traffic signals at the January 10, 2011 City Council meeting. The Department of Public Works has investigated the questions and has determined that all existing traffic signals were converted starting in 2001 from incandescent to light emitting diode (LED) technology under a Public Utility Commission (PUC) loan and through an available Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) credit. The City was approved for a \$270,480 loan through the PUC to complete the project and the City received \$29,520 as a credit for the project. The loan is estimated to be paid off by December 2011 and the approximate payment is \$16,810 twice per year. At the time of the conversion the City owned and maintained seven traffic signals. Since 2002, six traffic signals have been added and they all have LED technology. It is a policy of the Department of Public Works that all new traffic signals use LED technology. The City has a few incandescent lights still in use; the flashing beacon at E. Lincoln Way and four pedestrian hands for the "walk" at Auburn Folsom/Maidu Drive as these lights fail they will be replaced with LED.

The City of Auburn has a contract with Gray Electric for maintenance of traffic signals. It was suggested during public comment that City of Auburn staff should maintain the City's traffic signals. However, the City does not currently have the resources, including trained staff, to complete the maintenance in-house.

The Department of Public Works also researched the number of streetlights that are owned and maintained by the City of Auburn. Staff determined through PG&E that there are two categories streetlights; street lights are either owned and maintained by PG&E or owned and maintained by the

City. The City pays for the electricity used under both categories. Currently the City owns and maintains 185 streetlights and PG&E owns and maintains 1,069 streetlights.

The City of Auburn has received an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) administered by the California Energy Commission. The approximately \$55,000 grant is for updating seventy-seven existing streetlights to LED. The seventy-seven streetlights that will be updated to LED are currently owned and maintained by PG&E. Once the switch to LED has taken place, the lights would become City owned and maintained. The cost of maintaining these street lights will be offset by the associated cost savings in power costs because of the LED efficiency. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by July of 2011.